



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
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**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
*Governor*

**KIM GUADAGNO**  
*Lt. Governor*

**LORI GRIFA**  
*Commissioner*

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Merchantville Connecting for the Future  
Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of Merchantville  
Mayor and Township Council, Township of Cherry Hill

From: Thomas H. Neff, Chairman  
Local Finance Board

Date: December 15, 2010

Re: Proposed Cherry Hill and Merchantville Consolidation

During the summer of 2010, the Local Finance Board received an application under the Local Option Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-25, the "Act") from Merchantville Connecting for the Future and the Township of Cherry Hill, as well as an accompanying petition from Merchantville Connecting for the Future attesting to their status as a "representative group of voters" on behalf of the Borough of Merchantville.

The Act provides that applications may be submitted in one of two ways: (1) from the governing bodies of two or more municipalities; or (2) from a representative committee of registered voters from two or more contiguous committees through a petition signed by registered voters in an amount equal to at least 10% of the total votes cast in the last general election at which members of the General Assembly were elected. Notably, the Act does not allow for a hybrid application process through action of a governing body of one municipality and a representative committee of another municipality.

The application submitted to us for consideration does not meet one of the two standards and will not be considered for that reason.

We appreciate the efforts of the parties thus far. Municipal consolidation is a serious matter that will be given the full attention of the Board and the Division of Local Government Services upon receipt of an application to the Board that meets applicable statutory requirements.